

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 5, 11 and 14 are amended, and claims 17-18 are added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments or the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Applicants respectfully note that the April 7, 2006 Final Office Action rejected claims 1, 5, 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 2-4, 6-10, 12-13 and 15-16 are rejected due to their dependence on rejected claims 1, 5, 11 and 14, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments obviate the grounds for the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

B. Applicants respectfully note that the April 7, 2006 Final Office Action rejected claims 1, 5, 9-11, 13-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,550,011 to Sims, III (hereafter "Sims") and U.S. Patent No. 6,148,342 to Ho. Applicants respectfully note that the April 7, 2006 Final Office Action also rejected claims 2-4, 6-8, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sims, Ho and U.S. Patent No. 6,044,462 to Zubeldia et al. (hereafter "Zubeldia").

Applicants respectfully submit that Sims, Ho and Zubeldia, individually or in combination, would not result in at least features of a copy protection method for

digital media including at least features of wherein the step (b) further delivers a key renewing certificate to compromise a private key of said playing device, said the key renewing certificate including a pair of new public key and private key of said playing device and a time mark for sequencing the public and private keys from the oldest to the newest, respectively, wherein the method further comprises processing the delivered key renewing certificate using a master key of said playing device, analyzing the time mark; and replacing the old key pair with the processed public and private keys if the issued key renewing certificate is the newest one as a result of analysis and combinations thereof as recited claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 5, 11 and 14 define patentable subject matter for at least reasons similar to claim 1. Dependent claims 2-4, 6-10, 12-13 and 15-16 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claims from which they depend, as well as for their additionally recited features. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

C. Claims 17-18 are newly added by this amendment and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Carl R. Wesolowski, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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